(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Information or the profit/loss of sugar factories is not maintained.

(b) Difficulties have been encountered in sugar industry following a general fall in sugar prices.

(c) and (d) No specific information relating to concessions can be provided.

Procurment of paddy in Andhra Pradesh

949. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of paddy is not undertaken by FCI and its agencies in Andhra Pradesh whereas in other parts of the country it is done by FCI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that methodology of procurement in Andhra Pradesh is also different from Punjab, Haryana etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to direct FCI to procure paddy directly from the farmers of Andhra Pradesh as is done in rest of the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) It has been decided that the procurement of paddy would be undertaken by FCI and Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (APSCSC Ltd.) in the ratio of 30:70 respectively in the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03. Accordingly, the number of purchase centres opened by them and quantity of paddy procured so far are as under:

Agency	No. of Centres opened	Quantity of paddy procured
FCI	173	1062 MTs.
APSCSC Ltd.	175	660 MTs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the relative share of paddy procurement in relation to levy rice in Andhra Pradesh in much less as compared to Punjab and Haryana.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of above.

Pesticides in bottled water

950. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "pesticides in bottled water" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 5th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the popular brands of bottled water sold in Delhi and other places in the country contain extremely harmful pesticides;

(c) whether the companies manufacturing such bottled water are violating the Consumer Protection Act; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such companies and ensure that BIS norms are strictly adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. A seminar on Pesticide Residue Limit in Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water was held on 13th February, 2003 at BIS which was attended by scientists of repute and representative of World Health Organization. It concluded that the packaged drinking water and